



Purpose: For Decision

## Committee report

Committee	<b>CABINET</b>
Date	<b>TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2013</b>
Title	<b>SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>
Report to	<b>THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES</b>

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks members' approval for the Schools Capital Programme 2013/14 which will, in the main see the conclusion of the works that were started as part of the school reorganisation programme in 2007. Members are asked to defer consideration of a number of requests for funding from third parties until such time as the Council has been able to develop a school investment strategy based on available resources, requirement for physical improvements and the identified need for pupil places in each of its schools.

### BACKGROUND

2. In 2008 the Council agreed to adopt a primary / secondary model for future education organisation with predominant age ranges of 4 – 11 for primary schools and 11 -19 secondary schools. In 2009 a capital investment programme was developed to deliver the significant changes necessary to achieve the reorganisation of schools into the two phase model. Whilst this became operational in September the investment programme has continued in order to ensure the suitability, sufficiency and quality of the pupil places available for the Island's schoolchildren.
3. The significant investments needed to achieve the schools reorganisation programme are generally nearing their conclusion and will be substantially complete by the end of 2013. The capital spending plans for 2013/14 are therefore primarily driven by the need to complete the reorganisation programme but include a budget of £300,000 for reactive works to ensure urgent repairs to schools are able to be undertaken as they are required.
4. With effect from 2014/15 onwards the focus of the Council's capital programme for schools will be to undertake appropriate planned preventative maintenance works to ensure that the building stock remains in the best condition resources will allow and to make any necessary amendments to the school buildings to meet the need for pupil places in an area.

5. A five year Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme of works to school buildings has been drafted. Works in this programme have been prioritised on the basis of the condition of the school buildings and requires refinement to take into account the need for pupil places at each school and the suitability of each building.
6. The capital improvement programme for 2013/14 is attached at the appendix to this report. The programme excludes the works in connection with the development of Cowes Enterprise College but focuses on the remainder of the overall transformation programme. It is based on the known funding available to the council and takes account of the capital receipts available from the recently agreed disposals of the former West Wight Middle School and Gurnard Primary School. The council's current agreed policy is to reinvest the proceeds from the disposal of school buildings no longer required following the school reorganisation project into the improvement of the retained building stock.
7. It can be seen from the appendix that, taking these capital receipts into account there are unallocated funds of some £785,596 in 2013/14. The council has received a number of requests for capital support and has itself identified some projects to which this 'underspend' could be applied if Members chose to do so, as set out below:-

### **Brighstone CE Voluntary Aided Primary School**

8. Portsmouth Anglican Diocese is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the school and has identified a need to replace a temporary mobile classroom with a new modular double classroom (incorporating toilets). The cost of the project is estimated to be £308,000 and the Diocese has been able to commit £166,000 from its Local Authority Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) funding towards the project and has asked the council to consider meeting the balance of the costs of the provision.
9. The council does not have to provide this funding in whole or part but the Diocese takes the view that it has made a significant financial contribution to the reorganisation of the school system from three to two phases. It has made a number of changes of changes to its primary schools to accommodate additional year groups and as a result, has fallen behind on its planned preventative maintenance/improvement works and is looking for the council's support in this regard.

### **Christ the King College**

10. The College has embarked upon significant works to provide a sixth form including the hiring of a new building. The college has a licensed deficit and approached the council to help fund the fit out of the new building. It has requested £200,000 to match fund a similar amount provided by the Diocese. Following a visit to the college there is no doubt that investment is needed. In particular there is a need to provide a power substation, fire hydrant and water storage booster costing over £100,000; audio visual equipment, lighting, staging and all facilities required for the new hall and ICT fit out £50,000 at some £125,000. Apart from the sixth form investment in art design technology of some £167,000 is also required to enable effective workshop facilities. In addition to the above there are potential aspects of the lower and upper college requiring future capital investment.
11. At this stage the licensed budget deficit has been extended but consideration needs to be given to the immediate capital cost pressures associated with the provision of the sixth form.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

12. Full Council agreed that the 'Framework for Change' should be used as the basis for developing the council's new corporate plan. The delivery of the capital programme for schools is consistent with the priority set out in the 'Framework for Change' to support the council's statutory functions and schools for which it is responsible and who are the council's partners in the process.

## CONSULTATION

13. The schools' reorganisation programme as a whole was the subject of extensive consultation with schools and the local community. The 2013/14 programme set out in this paper is effectively the final phase of this programme. The additional items for which council support has been asked for have been discussed in detail with each of the bodies making the request.

## FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. The appendix demonstrates that the council is able to fully fund the works currently planned in the 2013/14 capital programme and with an unallocated balance of £785,596 on account of the capital receipts due from the recent disposal of two former school sites. Members may therefore consider allocating some of these funds in support of the request for assistance that have been received. Members may also wish to defer the allocation of any funds in this regard until such time as the position in respect of the need for school places is clearer.

## CARBON EMISSIONS

15. It is anticipated that the works outlined in this paper will not have a significant impact on the carbon footprint of school sites as a whole. As schools fall outside of the scope of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme from 2014, these changes are unlikely to impact on the cost of allowances for schools as a whole.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. A Local Authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the Local Authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them.

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

17. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The

protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The proposals in this report may have a direct impact on those with protected characteristics, the details of any such impact will be taken into account when the individual works are planned and carried out.

## OPTIONS

18. The following options are offered for members consideration:-
- (a) Confirm the school capital programme as set out in the appendix and defer consideration of any other bids for funding until such time as works have been completed in respect of the pupil planning and need for the Island's schools
  - (b) Confirm the school capital programme as set out in the appendix
  - (c) Agree the funding request for Brighstone Primary School (£140,000)
  - (d) Agree the funding request for Christ the King Secondary School (£200,000)

## RISK MANAGEMENT

19. The school capital programme in the appendix has been informed by the original school reorganisation programme and will effectively see the end of that programme. Whilst there is an option to add some works to the 2013/14 programme to make the use of the unallocated funds there is a risk that without the benefit of a more widely researched and objective planned preventative maintenance programme that these funds may not be allocated to the highest priority projects. These funds can only be used once and if higher priority projects were identified after they were expended then the council would need to look to its wider capital programme or prudential borrowing to meet the costs of the works.
20. There is a similar risk that without the benefit of a clear pupil placement plan identifying where school places are needed now and in the future, the council could allocate its limited resources to schools that do not have the greatest pressures for pupil places or improved suitability.
21. The council's relationship with both the Anglican and Catholic Diocese is important to its delivery of improved education and attainment given the large number of voluntary aided and controlled schools on the Isle of Wight Council. There is therefore a risk that this relationship could be damaged were it not to provide any funds for the Brighstone or Christ the King projects. This is less the case for Christ the King as the approach for this project has come directly from the school.
22. Cowes Enterprise College is consulting on a possible transfer to Academy status and there is a risk that if the funding is allocated as requested that it may not be used in the manner set out in the original request. This could be mitigated by the council holding the funds on behalf of the school and allocating them to works as and when they are required/ agreed with the school.

## EVALUATION

23. An effective capital programme for school maintenance and improvement will be informed by a clear understanding of the current state of repair of the school buildings and the pressures to provide pupil places of sufficient number and quality in these schools. Works are significantly advanced in respect of a proposed 5 year programme to upgrade the school building stock but works to understand the need in terms of pupil places only began in earnest following the start of the partnership arrangements with Hampshire CC. It would therefore follow that the council should only commit to the most critical works it needs to undertake in 2013/14 until such time as it has a complete picture of its investment needs from which it can develop a programme in future years.
24. Whilst the current budget provision does identify a 'surplus' of funds in the current year this is because of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of former school premises. This one off income does offer an opportunity to bring about step changes in a number of schools after the council has been able to identify the highest priorities for its funding. This opportunity may be lost were the Council to choose to allocate these funds without the benefit of a wider view of the need for spending across the whole council estate.

## RECOMMENDATION

25. That the council adopts option (a):

Confirm the school capital programme as set out in the appendix and defer consideration of any other bids for funding until such time as works have been completed in respect of the pupil planning and need for the Island's schools

## APPENDICES ATTACHED

26. [APPENDIX](#) – School Capital Programme 2013/14

Contact Point - John Metcalfe, Deputy Director, Economy & Environment,  
☎ 821000 ex 6225, e-mail [john.metcalfe@iow.gov.uk](mailto:john.metcalfe@iow.gov.uk)

STUART LOVE

*Strategic Director  
Economy and Environment*

COUNCILLOR  
JONATHAN GILBEY

*Cabinet Member  
Resources*

COUNCILLOR  
RICHARD PRIEST

*Cabinet Member  
Childrens Services*